

Senate Resolution 1366

By: Senators Orrock of the 36th, James of the 35th, Fort of the 39th, Jones of the 10th, Stoner of the 6th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March 31, 2010, as César E. Chávez Day at the state capitol in honor of Mr.
2 Chávez's birthday; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, from humble beginnings in 1927, Mr. César E. Chávez, founder of the United
4 Farm Workers, rose to be a major force in American history, making him a heroic figure of
5 the 20th Century; and

6 WHEREAS, through personal sacrifice, Mr. Chávez focused national attention on the plight
7 of farm workers, making the world aware of the necessity for safe and fair working
8 conditions in the fields of our nation; and

9 WHEREAS, millions of Americans from across the nation of all races and nationalities
10 joined him in the movement for farm workers' rights; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Chávez was also a champion for civil rights, labor rights, voting rights, and
12 women's rights and was an early environmentalist, warning the public of the devastating
13 effects of pesticides on both farm workers and consumers; and

14 WHEREAS, as a result of these and other valuable contributions, nine states now celebrate
15 César E. Chávez's birthday, March 31, as a holiday, including California, Arizona, Texas,
16 New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, Michigan, Illinois, and Wisconsin; and

17 WHEREAS, countless schools, streets, libraries, and other public institutions have been
18 named after César E. Chávez, and many cities have honored him by establishing an official
19 city holiday on his birthday; and

20 WHEREAS, the life of Mr. Chávez, who, like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was an adherent
21 of nonviolent civil disobedience, serves as a model for all Americans; and

22 WHEREAS, the César E. Chávez National Holiday organization, based in Los Angeles,
23 California, is spearheading a national effort to win support for a national holiday and day of
24 service, learning, and action to be established on his birthday, March 31; and

25 WHEREAS, the Georgia Latino Forum unanimously passed a similar resolution supporting
26 the César E. Chávez National Holiday effort at its 2nd Annual Meeting on January 26, 2008,
27 as did the Council of Columbus, Georgia, on October 7, 2008; and

28 WHEREAS, the Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials (GALEO), the GALEO
29 Latino Community Development Fund, and the GALEO Leadership Councils held a historic,
30 multiracial, and multiethnic rally in support of the César E. Chávez National Holiday effort
31 in 2009 at the state capitol, the second annual event held in Georgia to honor César E.
32 Chávez.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
34 recognize March 31, 2010, as César E. Chávez Day at the state capitol in honor of his
35 birthday and exemplary work on behalf of farm workers, civil rights, labor rights, and
36 women's rights.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body agree to celebrate the life of
38 Mr. Chávez by engaging in service, learning, and community actions that represent his
39 legacy on his birthday, March 31, and all through the year.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
41 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the César E. Chávez National Holiday
42 organization.